

REMARKS

This is to acknowledge that Claims 5-8, 16-19, and 25 were merely objected to in the above-identified Office Action. In this regard, however, Applicants have amended all of the remaining claims, wherefore it is believed that all of the claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In particular, independent Claim 1 has been extensively amended to state that the original pressing means is inclined and disposed so that the upstream portion or the downstream portion of the original pressing means is aligned with the corresponding side of the reading location and so that the opposite portion of the original pressing means is separated from the reading location.

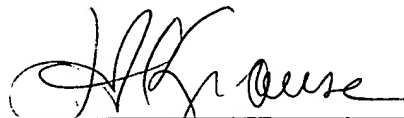
Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art does not disclose this feature of the invention, which feature produces an advantageous result, wherein the original sheet is not tightly pressed against the entire extent of the reading location means at the reading location. For these reasons Applicants believe that amended Claim 1, as well as the remaining dependent Claims 3, 5-9, 18, 19 and 27 are allowable. In addition, Claim 12 has been amended to independent form to include limitations similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 1, wherefore it is believed that Claims 12-14 are also in condition for allowance.

Finally, in the Office Action a requirement was also set forth with respect to Figs. 15 and 16 of the drawings, stating that those drawings should be identified as "prior art". In compliance, a separate communication accompanies this Amendment, wherein a corrected sheet of drawings bearing Figs. 15 and 16 now identifies those drawings as prior art.

For all of these various reasons it is believed that the application is now allowable, and a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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